

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165910

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, FR, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S
MEETING WITH THE FRENCH

1. THIS MEMO PROVIDES BACKGROUND FOR YOUR PRE-UNGA
CONSULTATIONS IN PARIS ON JULY 21. LIKE THE OTHER
BRIEFING MEMOS WE HAVE SENT YOU, IT IS MEANT TO COMPLE-
MENT THE PRE-UNGA BACKGROUND BOOK POUCHED TO YOU EARLIER
IN GENEVA. A SEPARATE BRIEFING MEMO WILL BE SENT TO
YOU ON THE UNESCO PORTION OF YOUR TRIP. WE ALSO ANTI-
CIPATE SENDING YOU A SHORT CABLE UPDATING THE SITUATION
IN THE HORN.

2. PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS: BILL MAYNES MET WITH
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JACQUES LECOMPT, FORMER FRENCH DEPUTY PERM REP TO THE UN
AND THE NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR FOR UN AFFAIRS IN THE
FRENCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON JUNE 29 TO REVIEW
THE UPCOMING UNGA. MAYNES AND LECOMPT COVERED THE GAMUT
OF KEY UNGA ISSUES (REPORTED IN STATE 154450, BEING
REPEATED TO YOU). THEY AGREED THAT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS
WOULD BE BENEFICIAL WHEN YOU VISITED PARIS. THE RECORD

OF FRANCE ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS IS GOOD (ZIONISM/RACISM, GUAM, KOREA, SOUTHERN

AFRICA, ETC.) FRANCE ABSTAINED ON VIRTUALLY ALL THE KEY ARMS CONTROL AND NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES

3. ISSUES:

A. ILO: THE FRENCH WILL LIKELY TRY TO IMPRESS AND RE-INFORCE WITH YOU THE EC-9 DEMARCHE MADE TO DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER ON JULY 14 URGING THE US TO REMAIN IN THE ILO AND ASKING FOR ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO ANY DECISION TO WITHDRAW.

B. UN RESTRUCTURING: WE BELIEVE FRENCH WILL PROBABLY BRING UP THE QUESTION OF RESTRUCTURING WITH YOU AND STRONGLY PROMOTE THE CANDIDACY OF DAVID RIPERT FOR "THEIR POSITION" OF UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. WE ASSUME AMBASSADOR WELLS WILL HAVE BRIEFED YOU FULLY ON THE FRENCH AND G-77 POSITIONS.

C. AFRICA:

THE FRENCH WILL MOST LIKELY SEEK YOUR VIEWS ON THE SITUATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS WELL AS THE HORN. THEY MAY ALSO RAISE THE SITUATION IN CHAD. WE WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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SENDING YOU NEXT WEEK, PRIOR TO YOUR VISIT TO PARIS, AN UPDATE ON THESE SITUATIONS INCLUDING THE LATEST ON THE INCREASING BORDER TENSIONS BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA AND THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF CHADIAN VICE PRESIDENT DJIME. ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE FRENCH WILL WANT TO REVIEW WITH YOU THE PROGRESS OF THE CONTACT GROUP AND HOW WE MIGHT URGE ON SWAPO THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO EARLY TALKS IN NEW YORK. THEY MAY ALSO WANT TO KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS ON NEXT STEPS ON RHODESIA.

D. HUMAN RIGHTS:

ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS AFFAIRS IN THE UN, THEY HAVE NOT SOUGHT A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN RECENT YEARS. THEY HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FROM THE BEGINNING, EXCEPT FOR A ONE-YEAR HIATUS THAT ENDED WHEN THEY WERE AGAIN ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP IN 1977. IN GENERAL, THE FRENCH ARE STRONG SUPPORTERS OF WESTERN APPROACHES TO HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THESE EMERGE AS A CONSENSUS AMONG NATO OR EC-9 COUNTRIES. THE FRENCH, LIKE OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, VOTED AGAINST

THE ZIONISM-RACISM RESOLUTION IN 1975. AT ECOSOC
THIS YEAR THEY JOINED MOST EC-9 MEMBERS IN ABSTAINING

ON THE RESOLUTION ON THE PROGRAM FOR THE DECADE BECAUSE
OF UNACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE ON ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON
SOUTHERN AFRICA. THEY JOINED THE CONSENSUS ON THE
RESOLUTION ON THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON RACISM.

E. MIDDLE EAST:

WHILE ALL THE EUROPEANS ARE PULLED IN CONTRARY
DIRECTIONS BY SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL AND ECONOMIC TIES
WITH THE ARABS, THE FRENCH PROBABLY FEEL LESS AMBI-
VALENCE THAN ANY OF THE OTHER EC-9 IN LEANING TOWARD
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ARAB POSITIONS. THEY ARE ENTHUSIASTIC BACKERS OF THE
EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. THEY PARTICULARLY RESENT THE LACK
OF EUROPEAN INFLUENCE IN ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS.
THEY HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD IN PUSHING THE NINE INTO
ISSUING A FORMAL STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST
WHICH WAS MADE JUNE

29TH. THEY ARE UNEASY WITH THE U.S.-SOVIET CO-
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, AND MIGHT
WELCOME A MORE ACTIVE ROLE FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL
IF THE ARABS TURN TO THE UN BECAUSE OF A STALEMATE IN
NEGOTIATIONS. THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DEMAND FRENCH
PARTICIPATION IN GUARANTEES OF A FINAL SETTLEMENT.

F. CONCORDE:

LANDING RIGHTS AT KENNEDY AIRPORT FOR THE CONCORDE
IS THE SINGLE MOST SENSITIVE ISSUE IN OUR BILATERAL
RELATIONS AND FOR THIS REASON MAY BE MENTIONED TO YOU
BY THE FRENCH. THE NEW YORK PORT AUTHORITY HAS POST-
PONED TAKING ANY DECISION ON GROUNDS IT MUST MAKE
FURTHER STUDY OF NOISE AND VIBRATION DATA, DERIVED IN
PART FROM CONCORDE LANDINGS AT DULLES WHICH THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT HAS AUTHORIZED ON A TRIAL BASIS. CONCORDE
NOW FLIES DAILY BETWEEN PARIS AND WASHINGTON. THE
FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT IN MANHATTAN IS PRESENTLY
CONSIDERING THE QUESTION WHETHER THE PORT AUTHORITY
HAS BEEN ARBITRARY AND CAPRICIOUS, AND THEREFORE
DISCRIMINATORY, IN HANDLING THE CONCORDE LANDING APPLI-
CATIONS OF THE FRENCH AND BRITISH AIRLINES. THE
OUTCOME OF THE LITIGATION IS UNPREDICTABLE. THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT OF THE
LOCAL AUTHORITY AT NEW YORK TO ESTABLISH NOISE LIMITS.
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4. BIOGRAPHIC DATA:

A. PIERRE-CHRISTIAN TAITTINGER - SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SINCE AUGUST 1976, TAITTINGER FORMERLY SERVED AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE INTERIOR. A MEMBER OF PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S REPUBLICAN PARTY, HE SERVED IN THE FRENCH SENATE FROM 1968 TO 1976 PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE CABINET. HE IS AN EXPERT ON PARISIAN POLITICS AND WAS ELECTED TO A SEAT ON THE PARIS CITY COUNCIL IN THE MARCH 1977 ELECTIONS. HE IS CREDITED WITH HAVING HELPED PRODUCE THE PARIS ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM WHICH GAVE THAT CITY ITS FIRST ELECTED MAYOR IN OVER 100 YEARS. TAITTINGER HIMSELF WAS AN OFF-AGAIN-ON-AGAIN CANDIDATE FOR THAT PRESTIGIOUS POST.

B. JEAN MARIE SOUTOU - SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE HIGHEST RANKING CAREER POST IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, SOUTOU HAS HAD A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE DURING HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER IN EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS. HE HAS SERVED IN BELGRADE, MOSCOW, MILAN, WAS AMBASSADOR TO ALGIERS FROM 1971 TO 1975 AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FROM 1975 TO OCTOBER 1976. SOUTOU HAS ALWAYS BEEN WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE US (SOME OF HIS PRO-AMERICAN VIEWS CAUSED HIM DIFFICULTIES UNDER THE LATE PRESIDENT CHARLES DE GAULLE). HE IS AN ARDENT EUROPEANIST AND HIS STRONG SUPPORT FOR FRANCE'S REMAINING IN NATO'S INTEGRATED MILITARY COMMAND CHECKED HIS CAREER FOR A TIME. HE WILL REACH RETIREMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1977, THUS GIVING HIM TIME ONLY TO SET IN MOTION HIS PLANS TO REORGANIZE THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY.

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